

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Poland

SUBJECT Uranium Mining and Prospecting near
Reimswaldau, Silesia

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1. Uranium prospecting activities

In the course of 1950, exploratory trenches were dug and criss-crossed the woodless mountain ranges around Reimswaldau. In 1954, the first mine gallery was constructed which the Reimswaldau people believed to be designed for uranium mining. During the year 1954, a female Soviet chief engineer was frequently observed inspecting and checking with measuring sets the trenches on Zuckerberg Hill located south of Reimswaldau. These activities were believed to be uranium prospecting. The earth dug up from the trenches was red-colored and interspersed with small and medium-size grayish brown stones.

2. Uranium mining activities

A mine gallery was constructed in the course of the summer of 1954. The exact date of its being put into operation is unknown. According to Polish workers, the gallery extended horizontally into the mountain for some 300 meters and then split up into three secondary galleries. Waste material from the gallery was dumped near the entrance. Height and width of the gallery are undetermined. The appearance of the mined material was not remembered. The gallery was apparently extremely wet since the worker's clothes had to be washed and dried continuously. Blasting operations within the gallery were heard outside. Two above-ground pipelines led from

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- 2 -

a compressor unit into the mine. [] these air pipes served ventilation purposes. 25X1

2. [] 25X1

Polish workers initially employed at the mine designated the material as uranium. They referred to ore lodes and "eggs". These "eggs" were reportedly white rock material. No details are available.

3. Three Soviet radiometrists operating with unidentified equipment were daily seen at the gallery. [] these Soviets came from Schmiedeberg (nowary). 25X1

4. The ore mined was shipped out daily on closed trucks which were loaded at the mine entrance. [] the material was being brought to Schmiedeberg. The ore was contained in closed boxes 25 cm in diameter and 25 cm high apparently made of aluminum or tin-plated. No figures regarding the number of boxes are available. 25X1

5. [] the Reimswaldau is subordinated to the Soviet central management of ore mining activities located in the Schmiedeberg area. [] all supplier bills directed to the Reimswaldau enterprise were addressed to "R.I.". Further details are not available. 25X1

6. No names of leading personnel or workmen are available. On Christmas 1954, the majority of the Polish workers were replaced by Soviets, including the following personnel:

a [] female chief engineer as chief manager of the mine; 25X1
 a Soviet engineer, husband of the manager;
 3 Soviet radiometrists,
 1 Polish foreman in charge of the billets,
 1 Polish foreman (Tatownik) working at the mine,
 1 Soviet foreman working at the mine,
 3 Polish compressor operators,
 30 Soviet workers alternating at the mine,
 2 Polish washerwomen for the cleaning of miner's clothes,
 2 Polish guards.

Prior to Christmas 1954, 25 Poles had done the work of the 30 Soviet workers.

7. The mine area was neither fenced in nor guarded. Only the mine entrance was guarded by a Polish guard. The area was not declared a restricted area. It is, however, located within the Polish frontier zone which may be entered only with special permits. Rumors among those employed at the Reimswaldau mine indicated that new galleries are to be opened up.



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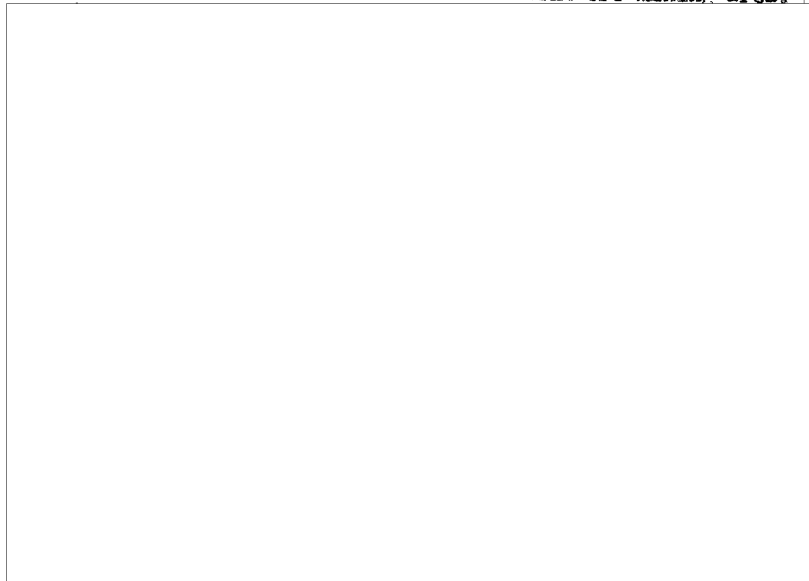
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- 3 -

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8. Women from Waldenburg and its environs who came to the Reinswaldau area for gathering berries and mushrooms reported that uranium ore is being mined near Kynau and Reussendorf (P 51/H 07), Silesia. The Kynau ore finds have been exploited by the Soviets since 1952. The Reussendorf ore deposits were said to have been exploited since 1950 but to have become exhausted in 1952. Both areas are said to be restricted areas. 25X1
9.  uranium ore was found in Kielce, Poland, and is presently being exploited. 25X1
10. See annex for sketch of location of uranium ore mining area. 



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-4-

Annex

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Location Sketch of Reimswaldau Uranium Ore Mining AreaLegend.

- 1 - Mine entrance
- 2 - Compressor station, a former farm house with several compressors of undetermined capacity in the basement. Two iron pipelines 7 to 8 cm in diameter led to the mine gallery. The first floor of the building contained drying equipment for miner's clothes.
- 3 - Gravel road to the mine
- 4 - Areas crisscrossed by exploratory trenches
- 5 - Former "Zum Hornschloss" inn housing the kitchen and billets for Reimswaldau mine employees and workers
- 6 - Vehicle station of the Reimswaldau Kolkhoz
- 7 - Poster indicating border of the restricted zone with the inscription "Pasmo Pograniczny" Osobom Nie Przystapienie (Border Line no admittance).
- 8 - Same as Item (7)
- 9 - Quarry containing layered yellowish rock used for gravel roads. Presumably yellow sandstone.
- 10 - Small civilian dwelling
- 11 - Former "Andreas-Baude" (hostel) now used as recreation center for young Polish workers
- 12 - Dismantled former "Freundenschloss-Baude"
- 13 - Polish-Czech frontier. The hatched line indicates a cleared aisle in the forest.
- 14 - Section of Polish-Czech frontier secured by a barbed wire fence

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